

**Regional Services Council Region 4  
Inaugural Meeting  
November 7, 2005  
107 Weber Rd.  
Albion, Indiana  
4:00 pm**

**Meeting Minutes**

Present at the meeting were:

Dave Judkins, Region 4 Manager  
Judge James Heuer, Whitley County  
Judge Michael Kramer, Noble County  
Judge Charles Pratt, Allen County  
Jan Lung, Director Steuben/LaGrange County  
Steve Scott, Director Adams County  
Mary Southern, Director Dekalb County  
Andria Eguia, Family Case Manager Allen County  
Kim Wilson, Family Case Manager Supervisor Wells/Miami County

Not present were Rex McFarren, Allen County CASA; Alice Mull, Foster Parent

Dave states he e-mailed the distribution list for the council members and all should have received this today. You can simply drag this icon to "contacts" in your mailbox and save it.

Public Access to information contained in the RSC meetings was discussed and at this time it is unclear how public these meetings are required to be. Dave stated that we will get word on this. There is talk of a website listing for agendas and minutes for the meetings to be posted on.

Dave presented the council with binders set up in sections and went through these and what they contained. The outline of the binders is as follows:

**Agenda** contained a copy of the agenda

**Regional Map/Members** contains the map of regions and the regional managers. Also included was the list of Region 4 Services Council Members and contact information for each.

**Services** listed services for each county by the 4 P's (Prevention, Preservation, Placement, and Permanency). The list contained the county the services were located in, the provider name, funding sources, and a description of the services.

**Budget/Co.** contains the Family and Children Fund property tax rate comparison and each county's certified budgets of what we intended, with the exception of Huntington County which was not included.

**Budget IVB** contains each counties program allocations (for period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006) and expenditures (for August 1, 2005 to September 30, 2005) of IV-B monies IV-B makes up about 5% of the budget. There has been a significant amount lost in IV-B monies. The IV-B monies are divided into two parts. Part I is, in general, for Home based services. Part 2 is typically for Family support services, Preservation, and Adoption Services. Part 2 being more specific and part one being more general. The council will review IV-B down the road. Bidders are submitting proposals for the RFP now, the directors will make a decision as to what they want for services. Sometime in January it is projected the council will review and approve the recommendations. The proposals the council will review will be set to expire June 30, 2008. There is a detailed service plan and outline of expectations for each of the services provided and what is expected. It is extremely detailed.

**Misc.** section contains a copy of the letter from Judge Payne sent to Judges describing the RSC organizationally. Also contained in this section is a draft of the Regional Services Council Protocol.

Dave discussed that the intent for the formulation of the RSC is to determine services for a region. The thought being that a family in Whitley County should have the same opportunity for services as a family in Allen or Wells counties. The idea is then that RSC would determine what is needed regionally and submit that to Central Office who would then put out an RFP for the services so the providers can then submit a bid.

The RSC shall meet monthly. Sub committees are a possibility. Conduct of the meetings is open for discussion.

RSC focus will mainly be on accounts 30090 (Child Welfare Services) and 32540 (Preservation Services). Child Welfare Services focuses on prevention and preservation programs in the community. This is a very flexible account at the local level and can be used to serve individuals as well as the community. This is for the good of the community. Preservation Services are basically to work with families we are involved with through wardship. Examples would be parenting classes and counseling services. Accounts 32540 and 30090 will flow through the RSC to ensure they are appropriate.

Dave feels it would be wise to regionally look at Child Advocacy Centers for sexual abuse and at Respite Care – these are not available to all in the region.

Dave indicated that DCS is changing its focus away from voluntary services handled by DCS to having the community handle these types of situations in Wrap around services. The course of action would be if DCS would receive information on a family that does not rise to the level of our involvement, DCS would refer to community wrap around.

There will also be a move towards the standardization of information received from service providers. Dave mentioned, as an example, that all reports should be received electronically from service providers. The same thought would be that the referrals would be handled the same way to cut down on delays in getting the referral to the provider, which in turn would result in speeding up the time frame families would have to wait for services. It was also mentioned that not all providers are reporting well and there will be guidelines that state the service providers report will contain "X", and have an outline of what the report is to contain.

Dave also brought up the fact that regionally DCS is looking at a Central Call in for reporting of abuse or neglect. There would be an 800 number to call in reports to and screening decisions would be made regionally and then it would be transferred to the appropriate county. The idea behind this is consistency in screening calls. The question was asked if this would delay response times. Dave stated that he felt that this would actually aide in speeding this up.

For Next meeting Dave requested that we look at the services section of the binders distributed and make a "top 10" list of services that the council feels are needed for CHINS and JD/JS cases for every county regionally.

Judge Pratt asked about IV-B and getting some sort of explanation of how these monies are used. Discussion was that Dave could ask Jim Shively to present to the council or possibly provide a document. The consensus was that a document would be sufficient. Dave stated he would request one from Jim Shively and distribute this via e-mail prior to the next meeting.

Judge Heuer asked about status offenses such as truancy, runaway, and disobedience and how these are handled in the counties within the region – are they typically CHINS or Probation cases? Dave stated that he could put out a survey on this to see how they are handled regionally in the different counties.

**Next meeting** scheduled for **December 12, 2005 at 4:00 pm at the Whitley County Court House, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor.** It was discussed and decided that meetings will last no longer than 90 minutes.

Adjourn 5:05 pm